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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/733,124

12/11/2003

Marc Bodet

056982/00037

7890

31013

7590

07/07/2006

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
1177 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 10036

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/733,124

Applicant(s)

BODET ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9 and 11-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. For further reconsideration, the allowed claim 16 has been withdrawn.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, ***“the connector shell is one of a set of interchangeable connector shells each having a different terminal socket configuration suitable for engaging the mating connector having a corresponding mating configuration” (claims 1 and 17) and “the connector shell includes a channel defined therein” (claim 16)*** must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New

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Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1, 3 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitations “***the connector shell is one of a set of interchangeable connector shells each having a different terminal socket configuration suitable...***” and “***the connector shell includes a channel defined therein***” were not disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

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applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 3 and 12-17, insofar as the claims can be understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura (6,558,178).

Regarding claims 1 and 17, Nakamura, figure 9 shows a pressure-tight contact device comprising an insulator (52) extending through a housing (53), at least one contact pin (20) extending through the insulator, a seal (61) for sealing the insulator relative to the housing, and a connector shell (31) of insulating material positioned on the insulator and affixed to the housing, the connector shell including a terminal socket (44) having at least one contact tab (42) in electrical contact with the at least one contact pin, wherein the connector shell is one of a set of interchangeable connector shells each having a different terminal socket configuration suitable for engaging the mating connector having a corresponding mating configuration (since the connector shell (31) is one of the set of interchangeable connector shells; and the claim does not require you to have each connector shell having a different terminal socket....).

Regarding claim 3, the electrical device housed in the housing is a motor.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, the contact pin is electrically connected to the electrical device and to source of electrical current and electrically connected to at least one additional electrical device disposed in the housing.

Regarding claim 14, a plurality of projections (25) extending from the contact pin arranged and constructed to retain the contact pin in the insulator when the contact pin is inserted into the insulator.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, the connector shell including a bore (39) defined therein for leak testing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerow (5,890,930) in view of Rebikoff (4,355,855).

Regarding claim 4, Gerow, figure 2 shows a pressure-tight contact device for enabling an electrical connection to an electrical device housed in a pressure-tight housing, the contact device comprising an insulator (a FIGURE A below) extending through said housing (the FIGURE A below), at least one contact pin (38) extending through the insulator, a first O-ring seal (the FIGURE A below) for sealing the insulator relative to the housing, a connector shell (20) of insulating material positioned on the insulator and affixed to the insulator, the connector shell including a shroud (the FIGURE A below) and a terminal socket (not labeled) for receiving a connecting cable (50), at least one contact tab (30, 24 and the FIGURE A below) mounted in the connector shell, the at least one contact pin elastically and electrically connected to the at least one contact tab, a third O-ring seal (the FIGURE A below) for sealing the connector shell relative to the insulator, and at least one fastener (the FIGURE A below)

for affixing the connector shell to the insulator, the at least one contact tab and the shroud forming the terminal socket for mating with a connector member of the connecting cable.

Gerow discloses the claimed invention as described above except for a second O-ring seal for sealing the at least one contact pin relative to the insulator.

Rebikoff, figure 1 shows a deep water connector having an O-ring (56) for sealing a contact pin (54) relative to an insulator (48). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Gerow to have the O-ring seal, as taught by Rebikoff, in order to protect the contact pin from water.

Regarding claim 5, Gerow shows the contact pin including at least one tip arranged and constructed to engage at least one opening (a front end of 30) defined in the contact tab.

Regarding claim 6, the at least one contact tab including at least one contact face (a front end of the opening) defined by the at least one opening, the at least one contact face bearing against the at least one contact pin to provide an electrical connection between the contact pin and the contact tab.

Regarding claim 7, Gerow shows the at least one contact pin and the contact tab are positioned proximate one another.

Regarding claim 8, Gerow shows nose member (the FIGURE A below) for positioning the contact tab in the connector shell (since 24 is a crimp terminal).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 5/8/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant states that the limitations: "the connector shell is one of a set of interchangeable connector shells each having a different terminal socket configuration suitable..." are shown in figures 5 and 6. The Examiner agrees that figures 5 and 6 show different pin configurations, but figure 5 is shown one embodiment and figure 6 is shown an alternative embodiment, that means there are two different inventions and no interchangeable has been disclosed in the specification.

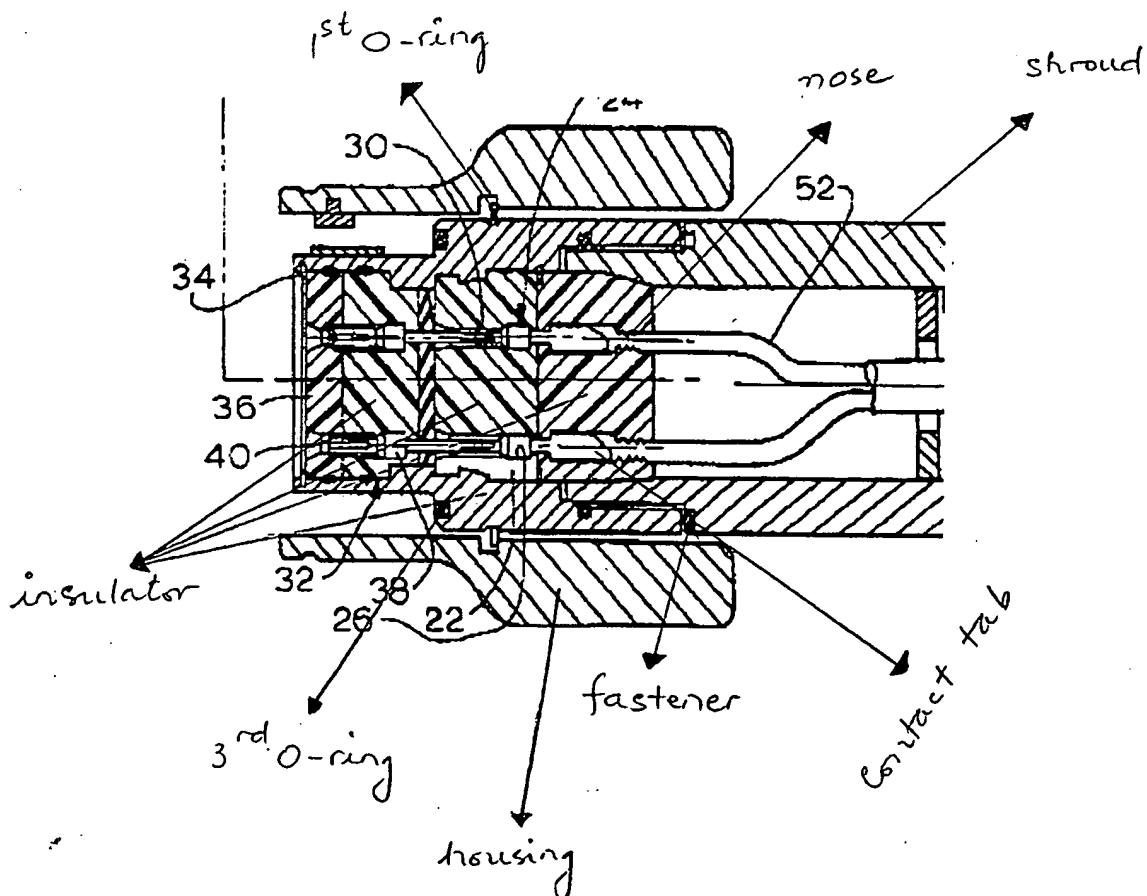
Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

Regarding claim 9, Gerow shows the contact tab is held in position in the connector shell by means of a crimp.

Regarding claim 11, it is noted that Rebikoff shows the fastener is a play-free snap fastener.

FIGURE A



12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Le', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

TL.
06/30/06.